Members of the Legislative Assembly Pension Plan

2000 Annual Report

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Members of the Legislative Assembly Pension Plan

2000

Annual Report

April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000

National Library of Canada Cataloguing in Publication Data
Main entry under title:
Members of the Legislative Assembly pension plan annual report. --
1994-

Annual.
Title from cover.
At head of title: British Columbia.
Running title: MLA pension plan annual report.
Imprint varies: 1999- , British Columbia Pension Corporation.
Continues: British Columbia. Legislative Assembly. Annual report of the business done in pursuance of the Legislative Assembly Allowances and Pension Act Part 2.
ISSN 1480-5332 = Members of the Legislative Assembly pension plan annual report

1. British Columbia. Legislative Assembly – Officials and employees - Pensions - Periodicals. 2. Legislators - Pensions - British Columbia - Periodicals. I. British Columbia. Legislative Assembly. II. British Columbia. Superannuation Commission. III. British Columbia Pension Corporation. IV. Title: British Columbia members of the Legislative Assembly pension plan annual report. V. MLA pension plan annual report.

JL434.P4B74 328.711'0733 C98-960027-0

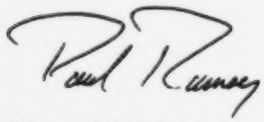
103-05139/

Respectfully submitted

The Honourable Garde B. Gardom, Q.C.
Lieutenant Governor
Province of British Columbia

May it please Your Honour:

The undersigned respectfully submits the report of the business done in pursuance of the *Legislative Assembly Allowances and Pension Act, Part 2* during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2000.

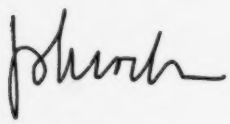


Honourable Paul Ramsey
Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations
March 1, 2001

Honourable Paul Ramsey
Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations

Minister:

I have the honour of presenting you with the report of the business done in pursuance of the *Legislative Assembly Allowances and Pension Act, Part 2* during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2000.



John A. Mochrie
Chief Executive Officer
British Columbia Pension Corporation
March 1, 2001

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ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

British Columbia Pension Corporation

The British Columbia Pension Corporation (Pension Corporation), which replaced the Superannuation Commission effective April 1, 2000, is responsible for administering pension benefits for the Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Pension Plan. The plan is administered in accordance with the *Legislative Assembly Allowances and Pension Act, Part 2*, and related regulations.

The MLA Superannuation Account is an account within which contributions and interest accumulate and are invested to fund current and future pension benefits. When a member of the plan is granted a pension, the net present value of the pension is transferred to the Public Service Pension Fund, which pays the monthly pension.

British Columbia Investment Management Corporation

Effective January 1, 2000, the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (bcIMC) replaced the Office of the Chief Investment Officer of the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations. The bcIMC is responsible for investment management on behalf of the MLA Superannuation Account.

INVESTMENTS

Approved Investment Asset Mix

Approved Investment Asset Mix

	Market Value	
Asset Class	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Debt		
Short-term	20%	40%
Bonds	30%	50%
Equity		
Canadian Stocks	20%	40%

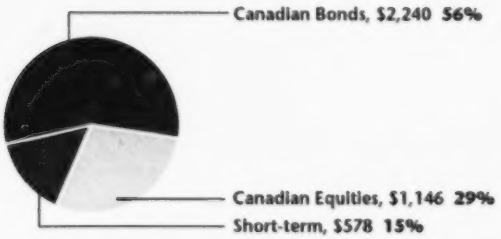
Investment Portfolio

Investments Held as at March 31, 2000

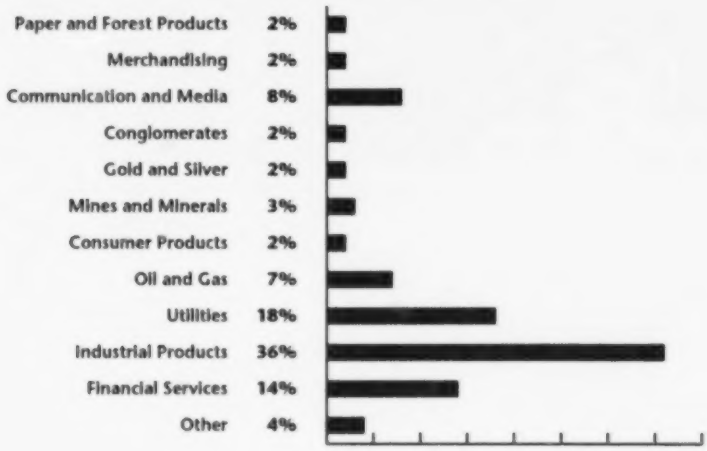
	Market Value	Asset Mix % Market Value
Province of BC Pooled Investment Portfolio Units		
Short Term	$ 577,964	15%
Canadian Bonds	2,240,443	56%
Canadian Equities, Indexed	1,145,564	29%
Total Investments	$3,963,971	100%
1999 Comparison	$3,302,462	

2000 Investment Holdings (Market Value)

$ Thousands



Canadian Equities, by Sector



MEMBER SERVICES

Members and Contributions

The *Legislative Assembly Allowances and Pension Act* was amended in July, 1995, to discontinue contributions and the accrual of benefit entitlements for service after June 19, 1996. Only service before June 19, 1996 will affect a plan member's pension or termination benefit.

Members of the Legislative Assembly may become plan members by purchasing service before June 19, 1996.

Number of Members

1991	29
1992	33
1993	33
1994	32
1995	35
1996	36
1997	25
1998	26
1999	31
2000	35

Termination Benefits

When a plan member ceases to be a Member of the Legislative Assembly, the member may elect to receive a refund of his or her share of contributions, plus the accumulated interest. Interest is credited to the member's contribution balance semi-annually and compounds semi-annually. The rate of interest is based on Bank of Canada average five-year personal term deposit rates.

Termination Benefits Paid from 1990–2000

		Number
1992	$80,000	3
1997	35,000	2
1998	$74,082	2

Contributions

$ Thousands

		Government	
	Members	Regular	Terminal Funding
1991	$323	$323	$ –
1992	236	236	6,417
1993	241	241	–
1994	355	355	412
1995	410	410	117
1996	398	398	–
1997	133	133	2,322
1998	89	89	–
1999	214	215	–
2000	$204	$204	$ –

Annual Rates for Interest Credited to Contribution Balances

	September	March
1995/96	6.59%	5.88%
1996/97	5.82%	4.71%
1997/98	4.67%	4.28%
1998/99	4.33%	4.10%
1999/00	4.54%	5.34%

Pensions

Two pensions were granted during 1999-2000. Total pensions paid amounted to $3.5 million in 1999-2000 ($3.5 million in 1999).

MLA pensions are paid at the end of each month from the Public Service Pension Fund. The fund pays a full month's pension for the month in which a pensioner dies.

The following tables provide an historical overview of MLA pensions granted.

Member Pensions 1991–2000

$ Thousands

	Granted During Year	Pension Terminations	In Force End of Year
1991	1	1	80
1992	20	–	100
1993	–	3	97
1994	2	3	96
1995	1	–	97
1996	–	1	96
1997	12	2	106
1998	–	3	103
1999	1	2	102
2000	2	2	102

Transfers to the Public Service Pension Fund 1991–2000

$ Thousands

	Present Value of Pensions Transferred to Public Service Pension Fund	Inflation Adjustment Contributions Transferred to Public Service Pension Fund
1991	$ 307	$ 90
1992	9,182	65
1993	–	67
1994	605	98
1995	246	114
1996	–	103
1997	4,687	43
1998	–	25
1999	188	60
2000	$ 559	$ 56

PENSION
CORPORATION

Executive
Offices

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Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC
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Victoria BC
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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SUPERANNUATION ACCOUNT

ADMINISTRATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The financial statements of the Members of the Legislative Assembly Superannuation Account were prepared by the British Columbia Pension Corporation (previously known as the Superannuation Commission), the benefit administrator for the account. The corporation is responsible for the integrity and fairness of the data presented, including significant accounting judgements and estimates. This responsibility includes selecting appropriate accounting policies consistent with generally accepted accounting principles in Canada. Other financial information contained in the Annual Report for the Members of the Legislative Assembly Pension Plan conforms to these financial statements.

In discharging its responsibility for the integrity and fairness of the financial statements, the corporation maintains the internal controls necessary to provide reasonable assurance that relevant and reliable financial information is produced and that assets are properly safeguarded.

The Auditor General of British Columbia has performed an independent audit of the financial statements of the account in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. The resulting audit opinion is set out in the Report of the Auditor General attached to these financial statements.

JOHN A. MOCHRIE
Chief Executive Officer
British Columbia Pension Corporation

P. LOUISE YOUNG, C.A.,
Vice-President, Information Management,
Finance and Administration
British Columbia Pension Corporation

June 7, 2000

Report of the Auditor General of British Columbia

To the Chief Executive Officer
British Columbia Pension Corporation, and

To the Minister of Finance and Corporate Relations,
Province of British Columbia:

I have audited the statement of net assets of the *Members of the Legislative Assembly Superannuation Account* as at March 31, 2000 and the statement of changes in net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the British Columbia Pension Corporation's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the *Members of the Legislative Assembly Superannuation Account* as at March 31, 2000 and the results of its operations and changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Wayne Strelioff

Victoria, British Columbia
June 7, 2000

Wayne Strelioff, CA
Auditor General

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SUPERANNUATION ACCOUNT
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
($ Thousands)

March 31	2000	1999
ASSETS		
Investments (Note 4)	$ 3,964	$ 3,302
Employer contributions receivable	204	246
Receivable from sale of investments	85	-
Cash	14	5
Total Assets	4,267	3,553
LIABILITIES		
Due to the Public Service Superannuation Fund	633	259
Payable for purchase of investments	50	-
Total Liabilities	683	259
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	$ 3,584	$ 3,294

The seven accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

John A. Mochrie
Chief Executive Officer
British Columbia Pension Corporation

P. Louise Young, C.A.,
Vice-President, Information Management,
Finance and Administration
British Columbia Pension Corporation

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SUPERANNUATION ACCOUNT
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
($ Thousands)

For the year ended March 31	2000	1999
INCREASE IN ASSETS		
Net Investment income (Note 5)	$ 497	$ 50
Past service contributions		
Members	204	214
Employer	204	215
	408	429
Total Increase in Assets	905	479
DECREASE IN ASSETS		
Transfer to the Public Service Superannuation Fund (Note 6)	615	248
Total Decrease in Assets	615	248
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	290	231
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	3,294	3,063
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS AT END OF YEAR	$ 3,584	$ 3,294

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SUPERANNUATION ACCOUNT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2000

1. THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SUPERANNUATION ACCOUNT

Under Part 2 of the *Legislative Assembly Allowances and Pension Act*, the Members of the Legislative Assembly Superannuation Account (the account) is an account in the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations of the Province of British Columbia.

When a member is granted a pension, the present value of the amount required to provide his or her future pension benefits is transferred from the account to the Public Service Superannuation Fund and monthly pensions are paid from that fund. The province provides additional funding if accumulated contributions for that member are less than the present value of the amount required to fund the pension granted.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PENSION PLAN

The following brief description of the Members of the Legislative Assembly Pension Plan (the plan) is provided for general information only. For more information refer to the *Legislative Assembly Allowances and Pension Act*.

a) General

The plan is a contributory defined benefit pension plan for Members of the Legislative Assembly. The *Legislative Assembly Allowance and Pension Act* was amended in July 1995 to discontinue the accrual of benefit entitlements after June 19, 1996. Only member service prior to this date will be taken into account for determining a member's pension or termination benefit. A member's eligibility for a pension or termination benefit will be determined using all service as a member.

b) Roles and Responsibilities

The British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (previously known as the Office of the Chief Investment Officer of the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations) carries out the day-to-day investment management services for the account.

Up until March 31, 2000, pension benefits are administered by the Superannuation Commission of the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations. On April 1, 2000, the *Public Service Pension Plans Act* creates the British Columbia Pension Corporation to replace the commission and to continue carrying out benefit administration services.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SUPERANNUATION ACCOUNT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2000

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PENSION PLAN (continued)

c) Pension Benefits

A member of the plan is entitled to a pension after having served seven years or for more than two parliaments and:

- ceasing to be an MLA and attaining the age of 55; or
- ceasing to be an MLA and attaining an age plus years of service as an MLA totalling 60 or more years; or
- having reached the calendar year end of the year in which the member becomes 69 years old.

The plan provides a pension of 5% per year of service, up to a maximum of 16 years service, of the average legislative allowance, special allowance and ministerial salary earned in the highest four years of service as an MLA, and as a minister or specified office holder.

Increases to pension payments are provided each January 1. These increases are based on the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as at the previous September 30, and are subject to availability of funds.

At January 1, 2000 pensioners received a full CPI increase of 2.6% (1999 - .7%).

d) Termination Benefits

A member of the plan who ceases to be an MLA may choose between leaving accumulated contributions on deposit or obtaining a refund of contributions with interest.

e) Other Benefits

Survivor benefits are available under the plan.

f) Income Taxes

The plan is a Registered Pension Plan as defined in the *Income Tax Act (Canada)* and is not subject to income taxes.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SUPERANNUATION ACCOUNT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2000

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Presentation

These financial statements present the aggregate financial position of the account as a separate financial reporting entity, independent of the account's contributing employer and members.

b) Investments

Investments are stated at market value. Market value is derived from external quotations or appraisals. Investment purchases and sales are recorded on trade date.

c) Investment Income

Investment income is recorded on the accrual basis.

4. INVESTMENTS (Market Value)

	2000	1999
	($ Thousands)	
Short-term	$ 578	$ 408
Canadian Bonds	2,240	1,948
Canadian Equities	1,146	946
	$3,964	$3,302

Pension account investments consist primarily of direct ownership in units of pooled investment portfolios, managed by the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation. Each unit gives its holder a proportionate share in the equity of the pooled investment fund. One or more pooled investment portfolios exist for different types of investments, such as short-term investments, Canadian bonds and Canadian equities.

Short-term investments consist of Canadian money market securities, such as treasury bills, with terms of 15 months or less. Canadian bonds consist of government and corporate bonds and debentures. Equities consist primarily of publicly traded shares.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SUPERANNUATION ACCOUNT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2000

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2000			1999
	Income Allocation	Current Period Change In Market Value	Total	Total
			($ Thousands)	
Short-term	$ 27	$ -	$ 27	$ 21
Canadian Bonds	118	(72)	46	115
Canadian Equities	19	405	424	(86)
Net Investment Income	$164	$333	$497	$ 50

The income allocation portion of investment income represents pooled investment portfolio income attributable to the pension account, as a unitholder, and as calculated by the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation, as well as any interest income from directly held investments. All income earned within a pooled investment portfolio is reinvested within the portfolio.

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

a) Transfers to the Public Service Superannuation Fund

	2000	1999
	($ Thousands)	
Accumulated assets available for pensions granted	$559	$188
Terminal funding from the Province of British Columbia	-	-
Present value of pensions granted	559	188
Indexing contributions	56	60
Total Transfer	$615	$248

When a member is granted a pension, the present value of the pension is transferred to the Public Service Superannuation Fund and monthly benefits are paid from that fund. The province provides additional funding in the year the pension is granted (terminal funding) if accumulated contributions with interest for that member and unused account investment income are less than the present value of the pension granted. During the year ended March 31, 2000, 2 members (1999 - 1) were granted a pension.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SUPERANNUATION ACCOUNT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2000

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (continued)

a) Transfers to the Public Service Superannuation Fund (continued)

The ten-year history of the present value of pensions granted is as follows:

	Accumulated Assets Available for Pensions Granted	Terminal Funding Received from the Province	Present Value of Pensions Granted
		($ Thousands)	
1991	$ 307	$ -	$ 307
1992	2,765	6,417	9,182
1993	-	-	-
1994	193	412	605
1995	129	117	246
1996	-	-	-
1997	2,365	2,322	4,687
1998	-	-	-
1999	188	-	188
2000	559	-	559

Under the *Legislative Assembly Allowances and Pension Act*, amounts contributed by members and the employer to help provide for the payment of indexing supplements are transferred each year from the account to the Public Service Superannuation Fund, from which the indexing supplements are paid.

b) Administrative Expenses and Investment Management Fees

Administrative expenses and internal investment management fees relating to the account are paid from the Public Service Superannuation Fund. Administrative expenses were $31,676 for 2000 (1999 - $33,264). Internal investment management fees were $5,324 for 2000 (1999 - $3,521).

7. ACTUARIAL VALUATION

An actuarial valuation of the plan is not required by the *Legislative Assembly Allowances and Pension Act* and a valuation has not been performed to date because the benefit obligation does not have a reasonable basis for measurement. To value the benefit, obligation assumptions would have to be made including those regarding the turnover, eligibility and retirement age of members. Pension eligibility and retirement of Members of the Legislative Assembly depends on election results and is not readily predictable.

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of the Member's of the Legislative Assembly Pension Plan

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698-108 09.06.01 QPR100433